

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09
OES-07 ARA-10 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 OIC-02 /125 W
-----047394 091337Z /45

R 090900Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5818

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: IMCO, EWWT,LI

SUBJECT: LIBERIA'S CANDIDACY FOR ELECTION TO THE IMCO COUNCIL

REF: STATE 102602

1. FRED T. LININGER (AMERICAN), SENIOR DIPUTY COMMISSIONER OF MARTIME AFFAIRS FOR THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA RESIDENT IN WASHINGTON, CALLED ON THE AMBASSADOR ON JULY 28 TO BRIEF EMBASSY ON SUBJECT MATTER. LININGER FELT THAT GOL WAS MAKING SERIOUS MISTAKE IN CAMPAIGNING FOR COUNCIL SEAT UNDER CATEGORY A AND SHOULD INSTEAD START IMMEDIATELY TO SEEK CATEGORY C SEAT WITH USG HELP. LININGER ACKNOWLEDGED HE WAS IN A DIFFICULT POSITION BECAUSE AS GOL EMPLOYEE HIS VIEWS WOULD NOT BE WELL RECEIVED AND BE A BETRAYAL OF WHAT GOL CONSIDERS TO BE IN ITS NATIONAL INTEREST. LININGER FELT THAT GOL'S BEST CHANCE OF WINNING IMCO COUNCIL SEAT WAS UNDER CATEGORY C. MOREOVER, HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT CHOULD LIBERIA GAIN A SEAT IN CATEGORY A IT WOULD BE AT COST OF U.S. SEAT AND THAT SUBSEQUENTLY IMCO WOULD DEGENERATE GRADUALLY INTO AN ORGANIZATION DISCUSSING POLITICAL RATHER THAN TECHNICAL MARITIME MATTERS.

2. ACCORDING TO ALEXANDER BAISDEN, PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL

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TRUST CO. OF LIBERIA, LININGER BROUGHT UP SUBJECT MATTER DURING A CALL ON PRESIDENT TOLBERT. WHEN LININGER SUGGESTED THAT GOL DEFER TO U.S. ON THE CATEGORY A SEAT AND SEEK THE CATEGORY C SEAT, THE PRESIDENT TOLLK UMBRAGE AT THE SUGGESTION. HE DID, HOWEVER, AGREE TO HAVE HIM CONSIDER A MEMORANDUM FROM LININGER OUTLINING HIS RECOMMENDATION. THIS MEMORANDUM WAS DELIVERED TO GERALD COOPER, THE COMMISSIONER OF MARITIME

AFFAIRS, ON JULY 30.

3. IN CALL ON GERALD COOPER, E/C COUNSELOR ASKED WHETHER GOL HAD CHANGED ITS POSITION IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY NOTE OF MAY 9 (BASED ON REFTEL), COOPER SAID THE POLICY OF SEEKING CATEGORY A SEAT IS AS YET UNCHANGED BUT FINAL DECISION NOT YET REACHED. E/C COUNSELOR INFORMED HIM THAT EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED FOREIGN MINISTRY NOTE DATED MAY 27 THAT MERELY ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OF EMBASSY'S NOTE ON SUBJECT. COOPER CONFESSED HE WAS NOT AWARE OF MFA NOTE SINCE HE WAS NOT CONSULTED. COOPER ADMITTED THAT GOL IS CONTINUING TO CAMPAIGN FOR CATEGORY A SEAT AND BELIEVES THAT ON BASIS OF CONTACTS MADE THUS FAR GOL HAS FAR BETTER CHANCE OF WINNING CATEGORY A SEAT THAN IN THE PREVIOUS ELECTION IN 1975. COOPER FEELS THAT MANY LDC'S ADMITTED TO IMCO SINCE 1975 WOULD FAVOR LIBERIA'S CANDIDACY. MOREOVER, COOPER CLAIMS THERE IS SYMPATHY FOR GOL AMONG IMCO MEMBERS BECAUSE GOL HAS NEVER BEEN ELECTED TO IMCO COUNCIL SEAT, ALTHOUGH GOL PAYS LARGEST MEMBERSHIP ASSESSMENT. TIME IS GETTING SHORT FOR ANY CHANGE IN GOL POSITION. IF GOL SHOULD NOW DECIDE TO RUN FOR CATEGORY C SEAT, LDC'S AND OTHERS WHO HAVE PROMISED TO SUPPORT LIBERIA FOR THE CATEGORY A SEAT WOULD ACCUSE GOL OF BOWING TO U.S. PRESSURE. CONSEQUENTLY, COOPER FEELS THAT GOL WOULD NOT EVEN GET A CATEGORY C SEAT. COOPER WONDERS WHY THE U.S. COULDN'T RUN FOR A CATEGORY B SEAT. HE FEELS THAT U.S. WOULD THEN BE EASILY ELECTED.

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4. COMMENT: DESPITE CHARGE'S REPRESENTATION ON THIS MATTER TO FINANCE MINISTER PHILLIPS ON MAY 9 IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL, IT WOULD APPEAR FROM ABOVE SOUNDINGS THAT USG AND GOL ARE HEADED ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH REGARD TO CATEGORY A SEAT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: ELECTION CANDIDATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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